Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 1-3 as follows.

Figure 4 is a block diagram of a broadband metropolitan area network with a plurality of broadband interfaces each attached to a signaling processor which communicates ~~communicate~~ with a signal transfer point.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 14-15 as follows.

Figure 9 is a block diagram of additional tables that are used in the signaling processor of Figure 7 ~~8~~.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 16-17 as follows.

Figure 10 is a table diagram of a trunk circuit table used in the signaling processor of Figure 7 ~~8~~.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 18-19 as follows.

Figure 11 is a table diagram of a trunk group table used in the signaling processor of Figure 7 ~~8~~.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 20-21 as follows.

Figure 12 is a table diagram of an exception circuit table used in the signaling processor of Figure 7 ~~8~~.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 22-23 as follows.

Figure 13 is a table diagram of an automated number index table used in the signaling processor of Figure 7 ~~8~~.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 24-25 as follows.

Figure 14 is a table diagram of a called number table used in the signaling processor of Figure 7 ~~8~~.

Please amend the paragraph on page 9, lines 26-27 as follows.

Figure 15 is a table diagram of a routing table used in the signaling processor of Figure 7 ~~8~~.

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, lines 1-2 as follows.

Figure 16 is a table diagram of a treatment table used in the signaling processor of Figure 7 ~~8~~.

Please amend the paragraph on page 10, lines 3-4 as follows.

Figure 17 is a table diagram of a message table used in the signaling processor of Figure 7 ~~8~~.

Please amend the paragraph on page 28, lines 1-7 as follows.

The signaling processor 104 also processes the call signaling to determine a second connection 148 for the call over which the second interworking unit 212 will transport TDM formatted user communications to the second communication device 146. The selected second connection 148 is a TDM connection, such as a DS0 ~~DS0~~ embedded in a DS3. The signaling processor 104 transports a control message over the link 132 to the second interworking unit 212. The control message identifies the selected second connection 148.

Please amend the paragraph on page 28, lines 8-12 as follows (remove "118" and one of the periods).

The first interworking unit 202 receives the control message from the signaling processor 104 and the user communications from the first communication device 142. The first interworking unit 202 interworks the TDM formatted user communications to ATM cells that identify the selected VPI/VCI of the first connection ~~118.~~.

Please amend the paragraph on page 32, lines 16-19 as follows.

The control interface 504 ~~502~~ accepts control messages from the signaling processor 522. In particular, the control interface 504 identifies DS0 connections and virtual connection assignments in the control messages from the signaling processor 522. These assignments are provided to the AAL 516 for implementation.

Please amend the paragraph on page 33, line 23 to page 34, line 4 as follows.

The AAL 516 obtains from the control interface 504 the virtual path identifier (VPI) and the virtual channel identifier (VCI) for each DS0 for each call connection. The AAL 516 also obtains the identity of the DS0 for each call (or the DS0s for an Nx64 call). The AAL 516 then transfers the communication device information between the identified DS0 and the identified ATM virtual connection. An acknowledgment that the assignments have been implemented may be sent to the signaling processor 522 if desired. Calls with multiple 64 Kilo-bits per second (Kbps) DS0s ~~DSOs~~ are known as Nx64 calls. If desired, the AAL 516 can be configured to accept control messages through the control interface 504 for Nx64 calls.

Please amend the paragraph on page 37, line 22 to page 38, line 3 as follows.

The signaling processor is referred to as a call/connection manager (CCM), and it receives and processes telecommunications call signaling and control messages to select connections that establish communication paths for calls. In the preferred embodiment, the CCM processes ISDN, GR-303, and SS7 signaling to select connections for a call. CCM processing is described in a U.S. Patent 6,031,840 ~~Application having attorney docket number 1148~~, which is entitled "Telecommunication System," which is assigned to the same assignee as this patent application, and which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph on page 45, lines 12-18 as follows.

Figures 10-17 ~~14-21~~ depict examples of the various tables described above. Figure 10 depicts an example of the trunk circuit table. Initially, the trunk circuit table is used to access information about the originating circuit. Later in the processing, it is used to provide information about the terminating circuit. For originating circuit processing, the associated point code is used to enter the table. This is the point code of the switch or CCM associated with the originating circuit. For terminating circuit processing, the trunk group number is used to enter the table.

Please amend the paragraph on page 49, lines 11-22 as follows.

It can be seen from Figures 10-15 ~~14-19~~ that the tables can be configured and relate to one another in such a way that call processes can enter the trunk circuit table for the originating connection and can traverse through the tables by keying on information and using pointers. The yield of the tables is typically a terminating connection identified by the trunk circuit table. In some cases, treatment is specified by the treatment table instead of a connection. If, at any point during the processing, a trunk group can be selected, processing may proceed directly to the trunk group table for terminating circuit selection. For example, it may be desirable to route calls from a particular ANI over a particular set of trunk groups. In this case, the ANI table would point directly to the trunk group table, and the trunk group table would point to the trunk circuit table for a terminating circuit. The default path through the tables is: trunk circuit, trunk group, exception, ANI, called number, routing, trunk group, and trunk circuit.

Please amend the Abstract on page 57, lines 2-14 as follows.

A system and method connect ~~connects~~ a call in a broadband system using the asynchronous transfer mode protocol for switching. Calls are connected over a SONET ring that has SONET multiplexers coupled by SONET paths. The SONET multiplexers are adapted to add calls to, and drop calls from, the SONET ring. An ATM cross connect system that has ATM cross connect devices is coupled to the SONET ring. The ATM cross connect devices provide provisioned ATM connections over the SONET ring. ATM interworking units are coupled to the ATM cross connect system. The ATM interworking units interwork calls with selected ATM connections in response to control messages. The selected ATM connections are provisioned between the ATM interworking units by the ATM cross connect system over the SONET ring. A signaling processor system receives call signaling for the calls, processes the call signaling to select the ATM connections for the calls, and sends the control messages to the selected ATM interworking units. The control messages designate the selected ATM connection.